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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAPUANO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 14, 2007.
I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL E. CAPUANO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Carl Toti, Senior Pastor, Trinity Church, Lubbock, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Let's welcome God's presence into our hearts and into this place.

'I lift my eyes up to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and Earth.'

Father, hear our prayers. "If My people, called by My name, will humble themselves, pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

We pray this Nation will return to the faith exhibited by men and women who trusted God, forged a Nation out of wilderness, raised families guided by standards from Your Word, and established a Nation that presently is the rival of the entire world. May the same standards be raised high by these leaders You have placed over us. May integrity and wisdom guide them to make decisions that please You.

Father, shield our military troops protecting our freedoms around the world. May godly decisions be made concerning them.

Lord, we ask that You would guide and bless our Representatives as they advance our Nation.

I pray in the name of my Lord and VOTE AGAINST THE ESCALATION Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God. indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR CARL TOTI

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have Pastor Carl Toti with us today delivering the opening invocation for the United States House of Representatives.

Pastor Toti currently serves as the senior pastor of Trinity Church in my hometown of Lubbock, Texas. He is a graduate of Rhema Bible Training Center. He has also earned a master's degree in theological studies from Vision University in Ramona, California.

Just as Pastor Toti speaks to diverse audiences through his ministry, so does he today speak to a diverse audience here in our Congress. Although Members of this body come from different parts of the country and varying beliefs, I hope his words will unite and guide us all today as we conduct the business of the people of the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes per

OF TROOPS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

Mr. DEFAZIO. Even as the House debates the continuation of the failing Bush policies in Iraq, Vice President DICK CHENEY, the chief architect of the Iraq strategy, is beating the drums for a new war, a war with Iran.

On Sunday, we had unidentified sources saying that the highest levels of the Iranian Government have directed use of weapons that are killing U.S. troops. No information was provided to substantiate the charge; administration officials yesterday deflected requests for more details, even as they repeatedly implied Tehran's involvement. It may or may not be true, but they have got a pretty bad record on intelligence. And now MG Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said yesterday that he has no information indicating Iran's government is directing the supply of lethal weapons to Shiite insurgent groups in Iraq. It sounds like the Iraq war intelligence all over again, phony intelligence leading us down the path to disastrous involvement.

This has to stop. We start by voting against the escalation of the Bush policies in Iraq and begin to chart a new course.

STAFF SERGEANT RICHARD ROSE, USAF

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes fighting the global war against terrorists, and many from the Eighth District of North Carolina. But today I rise to pay tribute to one hero

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

